## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) In a network communications environment comprising at least a first and a second server, ~~and~~ a client, and a client-to-home-server assignment data structure specifying assignments of the clients to a server to which clients can subscribe, a method for changing the distribution of traffic among the servers~~for the first server to redirect traffic among the servers~~, the method comprising:

receiving at the first server a registration request from the client;

determining at the first server a server with which the client is assigned to work based on the client-to-home-server assignment data structure;

when the determined server is the first server, processing the registration request at the first server;

when the determined sever is the second server, checking a number of Via headers in the registration request, the number of Via headers indicating how many times the registration request has been forwarded; and

if the number of Via headers is one, ~~and if the client is assigned to work with the second server,~~ then sending a request from the first server to the client redirecting the client to work with the second server;

else if the number of Via headers is greater than one, ~~and if the client is assigned to work with the second server,~~ then proxying from the first server the client's registration request to the second server so that the second server processes the registration request;

setting up a subscription by a watcher to a current server;

monitoring the distribution of traffic among the servers;

determining that a change in the distribution of traffic could be beneficial;

modifying the client-to-home-server assignment data structure to reflect a change in assignment of the client from the current server to a new server; and

sending a notification to the watcher of the change in assignment so that the watcher can set up a new subscription.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the first server is of a type selected from the group consisting of: a home server and a load distribution server.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the second server is a real-time communications server.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein receiving a registration request comprises receiving the request over a Transport Layer Security connection.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein receiving a registration request comprises receiving a Session Initiation Protocol Register message.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein determining a server with which the client is assigned to work comprises checking an active directory for a home server entry for the client.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

authenticating the client before determining a server with which the client is assigned to work.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein authenticating the client comprises using a New Technology LAN Manager authentication protocol.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein authenticating the client comprises using a Kerberos authentication protocol.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing a method for a first server to redirect traffic, the method comprising:

receiving a registration request from a client;

determining a server with which the client is assigned to work;

when the determined server is the first server, processing the registration request at the first server; and

when the determined sever is a second server, checking a number of Via headers in the registration request; and

if the number of Via headers is one~~, and if the client is assigned to work with a second server~~, then sending a request to the client redirecting the client to work with the second server;

else if the number of Via headers is greater than one, ~~and if the client is assigned to work with the second server,~~ then proxying the client's registration request to the second server.

21-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) In a network communications environment, a system for redirecting traffic among servers, the system comprising:

a home server directory service;

a client configured for requesting an identification of a home server from the home server directory service, for receiving a home server identification in response, and for sending a registration request to the identified home server, the registration request including a number indicating how many times the registration request has been forwarded;

the identified home server comprising a client-to-home-server assignment data structure, the identified home server configured for receiving the registration request from the client, for querying the client-to-home-server assignment data structure to determine a home server with which the client is assigned to work, for processing the registration request at the home server when the determined server is the home server, and for checking the number when the determined server is not the home server, ~~and for sending a request to the client redirecting the client to work with the home server with which the client is assigned to work~~; and

the home server with which the client is assigned to work

wherein if the number is one, the identified home server is configured to send a request to the client redirecting the client to work with the home server with which the client is assigned to work, and else if the number is greater than one, the identified home server is configured for proxying the client's registration request to the home server with which the client is assigned to work.

34. (Original) In a network communications environment, a system for redirecting traffic among servers, the system comprising:

a home server directory service;

a client configured for requesting an identification of a home server from the home server directory service, for receiving a home server identification in response, and for sending a registration request to the identified home server;

the identified home server comprising a client-to-home-server assignment data structure, the identified home server configured for receiving the registration request from the client, for querying the client-to-home-server assignment data structure to determine a home server with which the client is assigned to work, for checking a number of Via headers in the

registration request, and, if the number of Via headers is one, for sending a request to the client redirecting the client to work with the home server with which the client is assigned to work, else if the number of Via headers is greater than one, for proxying the client's registration request to the home server with which the client is assigned to work; and

the home server with which the client is assigned to work.

35-38. (Canceled)